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TC 2615

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#4 3-0-04 NO.492 0002

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Daniel Watkins

Serial Number:

09/539,686

Filed:

March 30, 2000

Title:

Audio/Visual Device for Capturing, Searching and/or

Displaying Audio/Visual Material

Examiner:

Huy Thanh Nguyen

Group Art Unit:

2615

Attorney Docket:

99-245

AMENDMENT A

Box Non-Fee-Amendment Assistant Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated February 20, 2004.

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 and 42-50 are in the case and subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants hereby elect with traverse to prosecute the claims of group I, including claims 1-36 and 42-50, drawn to an apparatus for selecting recording CC, audio and still picture portions from a received AV signal, classified in class 386, subclass 95. Thus, claims 37-41 are withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

However, restriction is not required by 35 U.S.C. § 121, as suggested in the office action. Congress wisely granted the discretion to restrict applications. According to 35 U.S.C. § 121 "... the Commissioner may require the application to be restricted...." (emphasis added). Likewise, MPEP § 803 lists two criteria that must be present for restriction to be proper:

- 1. The invention must be independent or distinct; and
- 2. There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required.